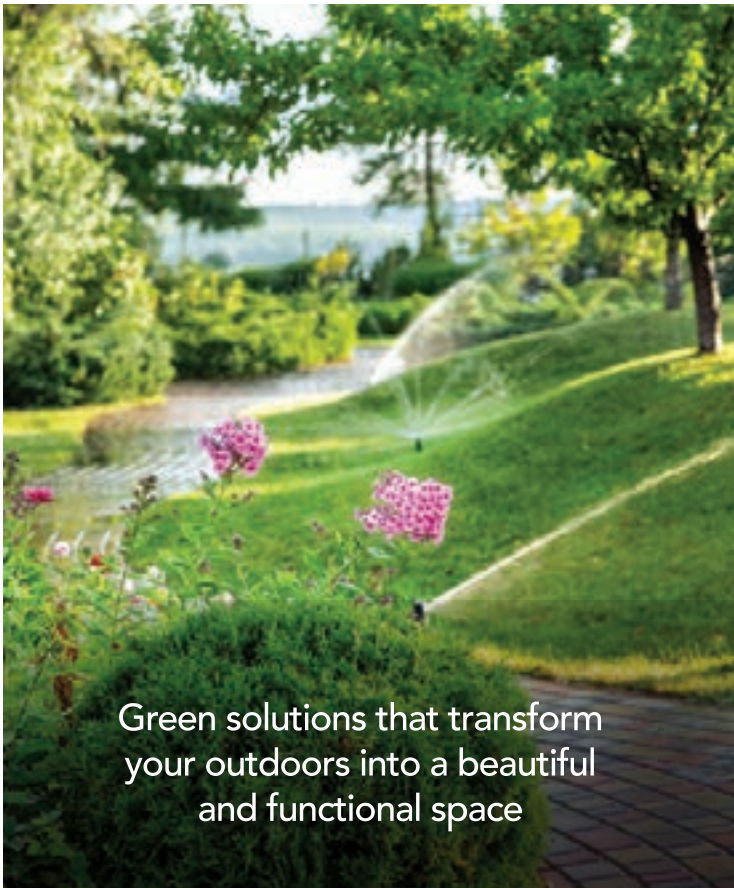


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To the Wellesley Community,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued warm welcome of Wellesley Home Magazine into your homes. Our magazine is meticulously crafted as a vibrant, full-color business and community reference guide dedicated to serving the residents of Wellesley. Within the pages of this annual publication, you will discover a rich tapestry of historical content, essential reference listings for all things Wellesley, a comprehensive town and recreation map, enlightening town-related articles, and the invaluable support of our featured advertisers. For convenient access and additional resources, please visit us online at WellesleyHomeMagazine.com. Our website boasts a user-friendly business and residential phone number search option, ensuring that you can easily connect with your neighbors and local businesses in Wellesley.

We hope you enjoy flipping through the pages of Wellesley Home Magazine, and we encourage you to keep us close at hand for all your everyday needs.

*Warm regards,
Charles Tashjian Publisher*



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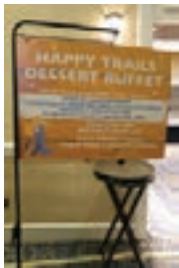
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Fire Department	
Fire, Medical, & Emergency Only	.911
For all other business 457 Worcester St.	781-235-1300
Chief Richard A. Delorie	
Health Department	
Local and regional public health and mental health resources www.wellesleyma.gov/health 90 Washington St	781-235-0135

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Fells Branch, 308 Weston Rd.	781-237-0485
Hills Branch, 210 Washington St.	781-237-0381



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Court Prosecutor	781-489-6662
Bureau Criminal Investigation	781-235-1212
Records	781-235-2189
Chief Terrence Cunningham	781-235-0062

Public Works Department & Municipal Light Plant

Office connecting all departments

20 Municipal Way	781-235-7600
Director of Public Works	ext. 3300
Customer Service (Utility Bills)	ext. 3365
Electric "Outage"	ext. 3390
Electric Emergencies "After Hours"	781-235-3228
Engineering	ext. 3315
Highway Division	ext. 3325
Recycling & Disposal Facility	ext. 3345
Water & Sewer Division	ext. 3355

Recreation Department

90 Washington St	781-235-2370
------------------	--------------

School Department

Administrative Offices	
40 Kingsbury	781-446-6200
Superintendent's Office	781-446-6210 ext. 5605
Asst. Superintendent's Office	781-446-6210 ext. 5603

Town Hall

525 Washington St	431-1019
Assessors	ext. 2274
Building Department	ext. 2228

Fair Housing Committee

Fair Housing Officer	ext. 2232
Financial Services	ext. 2214
Payroll	ext. 2210
Retirement	ext. 2216

Historic District Commission

Design Review Board	ext. 2230
Human Resources Department	ext. 2244
Natural Resources Commission	ext. 2294
Network & Information Systems	ext. 2280
Parking Clerk (9:00-12:00 Noon M & F) (1:00- 4:00 T, W, TH)	ext. 2296
Planning Board	ext. 2232
Selectman's Office	ext. 2201
Town Clerk	ext. 2252
Treasurer & Tax Collector	ext. 2266
Veteran's Services Dept.	781-489-7509
Zoning Board of Appeals	ext. 2208

Wellesley Housing Authority

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Central Administrative Offices
40 Kingsbury.....781-446-6200
Voice Mail.....781-446-6210
Fax.....781-446-6207
Superintendent - David Lussier.....ext. 5605
Asst. Superintendent's Office.....ext. 5603
PAWS Integrated Preschool
63 Hastings St.
Dir. Rebecca Zieminski.....781-446-6222

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bates 116 Elmwood Rd.....781-446-6260
Voice Mail.....781-446-6315
Interim Principal - Toni Jolley
Fiske 45 Hastings Rd.....781-446-6265
Voice Mail.....781-446-6219
Principal - Rachel McGregor
Hardy 293 Weston Rd.....781-446-6270
Voice Mail.....781-446-6225
Principal - Grant Smith
Hunnewell 28 Cameron Pl.....781-446-6275
Voice Mail.....781-446-6245
Principal - Ellen Quirk
Schofield 27 Cedar St.....781-446-6280
Voice Mail.....781-446-6230
Principal - Gerardo Martinez
Sprague School 401 School St.....781-263-1965
Voice Mail.....781-263-1969
Principal - Leigh Petrowsky
Upham 35 Wynnewood Rd.....781-446-6285
Voice Mail.....781-263-1510
Principal - Jeffrey Dees

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wellesley Middle School
50 Kingsbury St.....781-446-6235
Voice Mail.....781-446-6250
Principal - Mark Ito

HIGH SCHOOL

Wellesley High School 50 Rice St.....781-446-6290
Voice Mail.....781-446-6305
Principal - Dr. Jamie Chisum
Guidance Department.....ext. 6

COLLEGES

Babson College 231 Forest St., 02457-0310
Babson Park.....781-235-1200
President - Stephen Spinelli Jr., PHD
Mass Bay Community College
50 Oakland St.....781-239-3000
President: David Podell, PHD
Wellesley College
106 Central St.....781-283-1000
President: Paula A. Johnson

AREA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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Grade 6-12
45 Dana Rd., Wellesley 02482
Katherine Bradley, Head of School
Charles River School.....508-785-0068
Grade Pre K - 8
6 Old Meadow Rd., PO Box 339, Dover 02030
Gretchen Larkin, Head of School



Montrose School508-359-2423
 Grade 6-12
 29 North St., Medfield 02052
 Katie Elrod, Head of School
 Riverbend School508-655-7333
 Toddler-Grade 8
 39 Eliot St., Natick 01760
 Whitney Slade, Head of School
 Rivers School781-235-9300
 Grade 6-12
 333 Winter St., Weston 02493
 Ned Parsons, Head of School
 Meadowbrook School781-894-1193
 Grade Pre K - 8
 10 Farm Rd., Weston 02493
 Stephen T. Hinds, Headmaster
 St. John School781-235-0300
 Grade Pre K - 6
 9 Ledyard St., Wellesley 02481
 Siobhan Mahoney, Principal
 Tenacre Country Day School781-235-2282
 Grade Pre K - 6
 78 Benvenue St., Wellesley 02482
 Will Crissman, Head of School

NURSEY SCHOOL & CHILD CARE CENTERS

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 28 Abbott Rd781-235-2418
 Children's Corner Nursery
 2 Brook St781-237-1288
 Michelle Zeytoonjian
 Echo Falls Preschool & Transitional Kindergarten
 545 Grove St Nwtn Lwr Fls617-965-3606
 Director Jennifer Helliwell Stoner
 Elmwood Christian Preschool
 Director Susan Weycker 42 Elmwood Rd ...781-237-5806
 Gan Elohim Nursery School
 Nancy Ostroff
 10 Bethel Rd781-997-4230

Hills & Falls Community Nursery School
 258 Concord St Nwtn Lwr Fls.617-964-2086
 Director, Melissa Decina
 The Honeybee School - 31 Elmwood Rd
 Deb Nicoletti and Marcy Rosenberg781-237-6923
 Kid Stuff Nursery
 Sue Sullivan 219 Washington St781-235-9581
 Miss Ellen's Playschool
 Ellen Prives, 38 Willow Street617-633-2618
 Montessori Day School of Wellesley Hills
 Director - Mary Elizabeth Wall
 40 Abbott Rd781-795-5571
 The Montessori Children's House of Wellesley
 Director - Jennifer Lee
 10 Waban St781-235-9439
 PAWS Integrated PreSchool 63 Hastings St.
 Rebecca Zieminski781-446-6222
 Together We Grow Preschool
 Lisa Calderone, Director
 3 Pinevale Ave781-772-1321
 Wellesley College Child Study Center
 Director- Maureen Morgan
 Anne L. Page Building
 106 Central St781-283-2695
 Wellesley Community Children's Center
 Executive Director- Carolyn Stolov
 106 Central St781-235-7667
 Early Childhood Program781-235-7667
 Program Director- Darlene Howland
 After School Program781-235-1474
 Program Director - Karen Gaudette
 Wellesley Hills Children's Center
 Director, Linnea O'Neil
 309 Washington St781-235-7844
 Wellesley Montessori School
 Christopher Ackerman
 79 Denton Rd781-237-6670
 Wellesley Nursery School in the Hills
 Director, Melanie Dawson
 207 Washington St781-237-9137



Police Department

WELLESLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Wellesley Police Department is primarily responsible for all law enforcement activities within the Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts. The department has 61 full time employees, which include:

- 1 Animal Control Officer
- 1 Records Clerk
- 2 Custodians
- 2 Secretaries
- 4 Lieutenants
- 6 Sergeants
- 34 Police Officers
- 11 Public Safety Dispatchers
- Chief of Police
- Deputy Chief of Police

The Wellesley Police Department maintains coverage 24 hours a day and houses the Town of Wellesley Emergency Communication Center, which also dispatches the Wellesley Fire Department.

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Library

WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY

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The Main Library has 56,000 square feet on the first and second floors; plus there is 28,000 square feet in the basement, which includes parking and storage. There are 17,158 Wellesley residents with library cards. The Library is open 7 days a week. There are 204,140 books in the Library's collection, 18,608 DVDs, 18,563 music CDs and audio books, 85,824 eBooks and 16,414 downloadable audio books. The Library subscribes to 209 magazines and 92 databases.

A Year in the Life of Wellesley Free Library

This is what happened at the Wellesley Free Library from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

There are 20,464 Wellesley residents with library cards. The Library is open 7 days a week. There are 158,818 books in the Library's collection, 17,577 DVDs, 14,256 music CDs and audio books, 97,737 eBooks and downloadable audio books. The Library subscribes to 122 magazines and 33 locally owned databases.

- 297,839 people of all ages walked through the doors. Each had an individual reason for visiting the Library;
- 629,713 items were checked out or renewed;
- 475,568 of items circulated were books;
- 36,026 questions were answered by Staff — by phone, email and through the website;
- 21,273 children, teens and adults attended 1,025 live, and virtual programs including storytime, craft and computer classes;
- There were 366,627 hits recorded on the website;
- 76 volunteers donated 2,358 hours to teach in our ESOL program and provide other important support activities;
- 70 full and part-time employees worked to serve you.

Addresses

Main Library

530 Washington Street
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781-235-1610

email: wfladmin@wellesleyfreelibrary.org
www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org

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Wellesley's lively academic community places a high value on rigorous, probing inquiry, and creative, cross-discipline thinking. Its collaborative approach to scholarship encourages students to question, debate, and refine their points of view, not only with each other, but with our world-class faculty—often by working directly with them on groundbreaking projects.

A Wellesley education fosters the highest standard of readiness for the “real world” in its graduates, in terms of ability to think, act, and contribute meaningfully and effectively in their chosen areas of interest.

The “Full-Engagement” Advantage

Wellesley's full-engagement academic philosophy extends to the running of the College itself. The student voice is central to decision-making here; students serve on major committees of the Board of Trustees, participate in faculty search, and contribute to strategic planning.

Students participate in a wide range of extracurricular projects: The College and its surrounding community and the greater Boston area offer hundreds of internships, advocacy projects, and the rare advantages of being a vital member of the single largest academic “hotspot” in the country.

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The sheer sense of scale of the breathtaking natural environment, in which buildings are thoughtfully sited, distinguish Wellesley's physical setting in the classically New England town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston.

Home to leading institutions such as the Albright Institute, the Knapp Social Science Center, the Davis Museum, The Newhouse Center for the Humanities, and the world-renowned Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley's resources are a magnet not only for the surrounding community and metropolitan area; they attract attention—and scholars—from around the world.

Commitment to Women

Everything about Wellesley College bespeaks its commitment to women, and to providing them with an unequalled educational experience that honors and cultivates not only what is best about each of them, and their own potential, but about what women offer our world.

Our Values

Intellectual Discovery and Excellence

We believe in the transformative power of curiosity, learning, and teaching.

Gender Equality

As a women's college, we have always been committed to gender equality as foundational to societal progress.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We affirm that diversity is essential to educational excellence, and we are committed to being a community in which each member thrives.

Connection and Community

We value the equal dignity of every member of the community and our sustained connection to one another, to our campus, and to our mission.

Empowerment and Social Change

We believe in the power and potential of our students and all members of our community to envision the world in which they want to live and to take action to make it real.

Integrity and Academic Freedom

We commit ourselves to high standards of personal and intellectual integrity, we embrace the principles of freedom and rigor in scholarly inquiry, and we assert the importance of holding to the truths such inquiry reveals.

Clubs & Organizations

A Better Chance

396 Washington St.
Director, Dedra Morse
Email: office@wellesleyabc.org
Web: wellesleyabc.org

Adoptive Families Together

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Boston .617-587-1522

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Bay/West Area 1 508-595-3700

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jfield@umext.umass.edu 508-668-9793
Educator, Jay Field

Friends of Wellesley Free Library

President, Barbara Marx 781-235-1610
Email: info@friendsofwellesleyfreelibrary.org

Wellesley Friendly Aid association

Friendship Circle 781-235-3960

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

219 Washington St 781-237-0336

Girl Scouts of Eastern MA 617-482-1078

House and Garden Club of Wellesley

Email: houseandgardenclubofwellesley@gmail.com

Human Relations Service, Inc.

Director, Dr. Robert L. Evans
11 Chapel PL 781-235-4950

Italo-American Education Club

80 Oak St 781-235-9699

Junior League of Boston

Boston Headquarters 617-536-9640

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League of Women Voters 781-591-2033

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Maugus Club 40 Abbott Rd 781-235-8151

Natural Resources Commission

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REACH Beyond Domestic Violence Inc

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Church Office 781-235-7310

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www.SustainableWellesley.com

The Fund for Wellesley 508-647-2260
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Unicef, US Fund for 617-266-7534

United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
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VNA Care Network & Hospice 455-6661

Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project
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Wellesley Chamber of Commerce
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Wellesley Choral Society
Music Director, Edward Whalen

Wellesley College Club 781-283-2700
Email: wcc@wellesley.edu
Wellesley Community Center
219 Washington St 781-235-4172

Wellesley Conservation Council, Inc
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Wellesley Council on Aging 781-235-3961

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www.sustainablewellesley.com/wellesley-green-schools/

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President, Christina Loftus

Email: christina_ely@yahoo.com

Wellesley Historical Society

Acting Board President, Jared Parker

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Wellesley Housing Authority

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Wellesley Little League 781-366-7856

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Wellesley Neighbors

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www.wellesleysocietyofartists.org

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Scott Embree 774-269-9721

Email: jbenenson97@comcast.net

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Email: info@wellesleysymphony.org

Wellesley School Parent Teacher Organization

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www.worldofwellesley.org

Email: info@worldofwellesley.org

History of Wellesley

More than 350 years ago, when a handful of men first settled the area around the Charles River that is now known as Wellesley, they were so delighted with their new town that they named it "Contentment." Although the name has changed over the centuries, the feeling of pride and satisfaction on the part of the residents toward their home still remains strong. For many residents, this feeling of community was best summed up in the 1981 Centennial Celebration, a year-long discovery of Wellesley which brought a new sense of awareness of its history, a new enjoyment of its present, and a renewed commitment to its future.

Through a history book, two multi-media shows, a time capsule, a historical play starring current elected officials as Wellesley's founding fathers, town-wide parties and birthday cakes, and skits for schools and summer camps, Wellesley spent a year learning about its past.

It learned that in the 1630s, after negotiations with Indian Chiefs Nehoiden and Maugus (whose names are still seen in town today), the first nineteen hardy pioneers paid five pounds of currency and three pounds of corn for the land which would become Wellesley. At the time, it made up part of a larger town, named Dedham. The land was good and within 75 years enough families were living in a section of Dedham so that a new town split off, named Needham. The western part of this new town, the part which was to become Wellesley, was called West Needham, and spent most of the 18th and 19th centuries as a small, quiet farming town. Men from West Needham joined their neighbors to fight and die at the beginning of the Revolutionary War at Concord on April 18, 1775, and at Gettysburg less than a century later.



In the 1820s farmers drove their produce to Faneuil Hall Market in Boston, and returned home to the popular clubs of the day: the "Newton, Needham and Natick Society for Apprehending Horse Thieves," and the Temperance Society. Then, in the 1830s, the railroad came to town, bringing Boston businessmen and the most modern way of life, forever changing the face of the quiet town.

One of the businessmen attracted to this pretty, restful place was Henry Durant, who in 1875 startled the countryside by founding Wellesley College, a college for women which has become one of the most respected colleges in the country, on its beautiful lakeside campus. He named the college to honor his next-door neighbor, Horatio Hollis Hunnewell, a wealthy businessman and town benefactor whose mansion was named "Wellesley" in commemoration of his wife, whose maiden name was Welles.



By 1880 the pace of life in town was quickening. Suddenly modern life was descending from all sides. There was the first newspaper, bank and telephone, with new churches and homes. Most importantly, the sense of identity which "West Needham" had always felt began to assert itself. Under the leadership of men like Durant and Hunnewell, joining together with the sharp town politician Joseph Fiske, Wellesley residents organized themselves and pushed for separation from Needham.

There was intrigue and frenzy, with a heated meeting at the town hall (which doubled as the poor farm and which later became the Wellesley Country Club), but finally the men of Wellesley triumphed and on April 6, 1881 the Massachusetts legislature christened the



new town of Wellesley, which took its name as a tribute to benefactor Hunnewell.

Progress continued to come rapidly, and within a decade the most modern conveniences had replaced the kerosene lanterns, the puddled paths overgrown with grass, and the cattle and grocers' wagons which had filled the streets. The town fathers, with money, political experience and community spirit behind them, decided that Wellesley should develop as a carefully planned and lovingly nurtured new town. Whatever was best, that was what Wellesley would have. Before the turn of the century there were: railroad stations designed by H.H. Richardson and Frederick Law Olmsted, America's greatest landscape architect; the first golf course in Massachusetts; a pioneering water system; commissioners to lay out park lands; Town Improvement Societies; town playgrounds; trolley cars; excellent schools; carefully planned neighborhoods; and, most important, a sense of optimism and pride.

Through the foresight of town fathers who in 1914 made Wellesley the first town in America to adopt zoning laws, Wellesley grew into a beautiful town. By the 1920s it was recognized as one of the leading suburbs of Boston, becoming a center for shopping when Filene's department store opened its first branch.

Katharine Lee Bates, a town resident and Wellesley College professor who in 1893 wrote "America the Beautiful," was perhaps the first person to bring the name of her home town to international attention when her song became popular among soldiers during World War I. Other Wellesley residents have throughout the years continued her example of devotion to town and country, in their own fields and their own way.

Clean-up on Morses Pond

By Patty Roy

Morses Pond is a 105 acre gem in the northwest corner of Wellesley. It began its lake-life as a brook, dammed to create a millpond in 1738. Over the next 150 years or more, it passed through the hands of railroad companies, paint manufacturers and ice harvesting companies, all of whom built up the dam until Morses became the pond that is used recreationally today. Besides providing residents opportunities for swimming, boating and fishing, the pond also supports groundwater wells that provide drinking water for Wellesley and Natick.

Morses Pond is quite shallow, mostly less than 10 feet deep (averaging an eight foot depth) with a maximum depth of 23 feet.

It's the shallowness that contributes to a murky water problem that the town has wrestled with successfully over the past two decades. The town approved an attack plan to preserve the cleanliness and aquatic health of the lake in 2005. The management plan comprises elements of phosphorus inactivation, plant harvesting, low impact development demonstration and dredging.

Phosphorus inactivation uses a chemical called poly-aluminum chloride which pulls phosphorus out of solution in the incoming stormwater, making it unavailable to plants and thus clearing the water column. The system has been used in the pond from 2009 – 2022.

Phosphorus inactivation is also used on Bogle and Boulder Brooks, especially in response to a storm water event since the running water flows into Morses Pond.

The phosphorus inactivation system is set to run automatically from just before Memorial Day until the week after July 4. Leftover aluminum is applied during the summer when it's available. The system has been automated since 2016 and can even be controlled by smartphone. This treatment is usually enough to keep phosphorus concentrations low enough to avoid algae blooms for the summer.

Other things that muddy the water? Well, the answer is rooted water plants and a variety of them are found in Morses Pond.

Using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, town meeting voters agreed to pay \$390,000 for a new weed harvester to cut rooted plants from the pond. The CPA is a state "smart growth" tool that helps to, among other things, preserve open space and historic sites and develop outdoor recreational facilities. The pond, beach, trails and open space at the pond are used for passive and active recreation and there is a variety of wildlife in the area.

Mechanical vegetation harvesting began in a 2005 pilot program. It was expensive, but successful.

The weed harvester, its boat and trailer cost just short of \$390,000 delivered.

There is an older harvester that was used in tandem with the new at times during this summer season, but that has reached the end of its useful life, according to Brandon Schmitt, Wellesley Natural Resources Director.

The town also has a smaller harvester used as a backup at Morses Pond and on some of the other town ponds, he said.

The harvester is an interesting machine – an orange behemoth partly reminiscent of an old-timey Mississippi riverboat, propelled by two paddlewheels. Horizontal and vertical cutter bars cut or mow their way the vegetation as the machine moves forward in the water. The plants are conveyed into a storage hold in the rear of the boat that is emptied on land when it fills up. The harvester is expected to have a 10-20 year life span. The new barge is made of stainless steel that will prevent corrosion.

Department of Public Works employees operate the weed harvester which was purchased through a bidding process from Aquarius Systems, a company out of Wisconsin. A boat and trailers for the harvester and conveyer were included in the price.



Wellesley's new weed harvester was deployed on Morses Pond for the first time this summer.

The weed harvester goes into the water sometime before Memorial Day and the first cut is completed around July 4, Schmitt said.

Climate change has affected Morses Pond, he said. With warmer winters, there is less die-back of aquatic plants and consequently earlier growth in the spring.

"Eurasian milfoil and fanwort are the most abundant invasive aquatic species on the pond," said Schmitt. "Algae can present water quality issues as well, but algae growth has largely been controlled by the ongoing management efforts." Along with the change in the freeze and thaw cycle, more intense storms and greater amounts of storm water runoff are making changes in the pond.

The town has a pond manager who tests Morses Pond for water quality before recreational use is allowed.

The good news is the pond is safe for swimming and fishing (or boating or paddleboarding if you're inclined to fall in). The pond also gets high marks for clarity, thanks to stormwater treatment that reduces algae growth

That's can be a "good news, bad news" scenario, according to Schmitt. With clearer water, more

sunlight reaches the pond bottom and that does encourage rooted plant material growth.

"On the other hand, the plants provide good habitat for fish and the fish population is quite healthy now," he said. "Ultimately the goal would be to replace the rooted plants with native plants that won't take over the pond the way that these plants do."

Of course, summer heat encourages algae growth, but overall town officials are pleased with the pond program results.

Schmitt said it's important for residents to be educated about the local and regional watershed. "Things that we do on our personal property do impact the health of the pond," he said. "We need to have lawn management conversations. Really reducing synthetic herbicides and fertilizers helps."

All those chemicals enter Morses Pond during storm water (and there's been a lot this summer) runs off lawns.

"Landscape practices that rely on heavy use of fertilizers and uncontrolled sediment runoff can contribute to better growing conditions for invasive and nuisance species," he said.



Ready to try Blue on Highland? Walk this way

By Patty Roy

Blue on Highland has been around since 2006, but the centrally located space underwent a remodel in 2015, along with a revamped menu. It currently shines as a suburban restaurant with an upscale contemporary setting.

Scott Drago is the managing partner at Blue on Highland, (#882 to be specific.) After several decades in the hospitality business, he teamed up with Rod and Catherine Walkey of Dover to operate their restaurant.

At that time, it was thought that Steven Tyler of Aerosmith fame, was going to invest in the Needham property as a sister outlet to his Mt. Blue Restaurant in Norwell on the South Shore.

"The opening conflicted with his touring schedule, so he dropped out. But we liked the name 'Blue' and decided to keep it," Drago explained.

The trio of the Walkeys and Drago ran Blue until Covid hit and the dining room was forced to close.

"We tried to do take-out, which kind of went okay," he said. Without a crystal ball to see into the future, the team decided Blue would hibernate for a while.

"They asked me if I would consult for them to re-open the restaurant after Covid," said Drago.

So he did, staying for a year after the post-Covid re-opening. The Walkeys then decided to sell Blue, but it sort of stayed in the restaurant family with Corey Peyser and Adam Patti purchasing it with Drago.

Re-opening was a relief, but there were still a few hurdles in the way. The menu had to go more casual because food availability wasn't always assured, Drago said.

"So it was more sandwiches, salads and light fare," he said. But when the new restaurant team was able to open more fully, Drago brought back his old menu.

"It was a little more upscale casual – steak, seafood, pasta, pizza and burgers," he said.

When the Covid masks came off, business really rebounded.

"People were dying to get out of the house," Drago said and they flocked to Blue.

The restaurant is not only a favorite in Needham, but pulls regulars from surrounding towns like Wellesley. There are some folks Drago sees three to five times a week in either the dining room or bar.

And the surroundings are lovely, designed by Amir Kripper Studios. Walls clad in natural hickory, exposed brick, booths and banquettes cleverly arranged and screened so they can be converted in private dining spaces for business or family events up to 30 persons. Gone are the carpeted floor and white table cloths, replaced by warm woods. The steel bar with recessed lighting has a mid-century modern vibe.

And best of all, the bar has a full view of the street outside with windows that fully open, giving it the air of a Parisian café with the interplay of activity between the bar and the sidewalk patrons.

Even better, it has a long-time bartender, Junior, who apparently does know everybody's name and probably their favorite beverage as well.

"It's kind of a buzzing crowd," Drago said. Also Blue is conveniently located near the Commuter Rail for traipsing in or out of Boston. The restaurant is eclectic enough to attract urban diners out to the suburbs.

Its Needham location guarantees that some media types will drop in. Maria Stephanos is a big fan of Blue's coconut cake dessert, baked by Drago's own 83 year old mother. Called Nan's Coconut Cake it features moist yellow cake, real buttercream frosting and shaved coconut. So good, it was recently fea-



tured on WCVB Ch. 5's Chronicle. You can also look for it coming up soon on New England Perspectives shown at noon on Sunday on Boston's Channel 7.

Blue serves lunch and dinner daily and has a brunch from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Sunday with craft omelets, steak and eggs, chicken and waffles, and creative breakfast sandwiches. There is also its signature strawberry French toast, Nutella French toast and buttermilk pancakes. It also has a children's menu.

Dinner and lunch menus feature appetizers like Southwest egg rolls, Parmesan fries with truffle mayo dipping sauce, tuna tartare with Asian inspired sauces and crispy Rhode Island style calamari. Chicken wings and P.E.I. mussels with tomatoes, basil, chili flakes and white wine served with toasted crostini are popular. Pan seared scallops with sesame risotto and sweet Thai chili sauce and fish tacos are just a few more items on the extensive appetizer menu.

Farm to Table salads are available with optional toppings of chicken, shrimp, steak tips, salmon, tuna and fried or grilled tofu, with prices ranging from \$5 - \$15 for the additions.

Mouthwatering flatbread pizzas range from \$12 - \$16. Burgers – from veggie to turkey to classic cheese and bacon range around the mid-teens.

There are pastas, steak tips, sirloin, braise short ribs, chicken Parmesan and chicken Milanese entrees as

continued on next page 30



well as a weekend slow-roasted for 16 hours Prime Rib special, a 12 ounce Queen is \$35 and 16 ounce King \$45.

Diners often share a lot of appetizers and then order their own entrees, Drago said. The restaurant sources its menu items locally as often as possible –fresh fish from Captain Marden’s in Wellesley, and succulent cuts of meat from Kinnealey Meats of Brockton and Bianco & Sons of Medford.

The menu at Blue on Highland runs as spring/summer and winter/fall with some seasonal changes, all overseen by Executive Chef Francisco Contreras.

“Francisco does a great job putting together a lot of the local flair recipes,” Drago said.

There is an extensive craft beer list that Drago personally developed, having run Boston Beer Works across

from Fenway Park for many years.

“So, they’ve been there since 1992 before this whole craft movement,” he said. “They kind of started it and they enlightened me on how things are brewed. Everything is New England and we like to stay that way. There are a lot of really good beers in the region.”

One of the companies they recently teamed up with is Trillium Brewing Company of Canton.

“They usually don’t sell to restaurants, but it’s a perfect fit. It’s become a great partnership,” Drago said, Drago’s family works closely with him in the business. His eldest daughter Maria runs the restaurant’s social media, and second daughter Isabella and son Dominic both work there, too. His wife Kristin works at his side and Drago says they work well together in a partnership as sweet as Nan’s Coconut Cake.



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ernment jobs that men had given up due to war work.

In short, she may be the most prolific writer you've never heard of.

Her career stretched for nearly four decades over the mid-twentieth century, but her roots were in Wellesley where her parents James and Sarah Dolan

were married at St. John's Church. Her father owned a grocery store in Newton Lower Falls which is the town of Eleanor's birth in 1895. James later bought a parcel of land at 93 Washington Street where he built the family home in 1904.

In a brief biography written to promote one of her books, Early described herself as having a happy childhood where she adored her parents and loved her sisters and brothers. She attended Wheelock College, training to be a kindergarten teacher in accordance with her parents' wishes and graduated in 1917.

She never taught a class, though. Instead, Early snagged a job as a cub reporter, despite being handicapped by not being able to type. She then got fired for taking a vacation (that her editor had not authorized) to Cuba with her sisters.



By Patty Roy

There's a phrase from "One," the finale song and dance number in the musical, "A Chorus Line" that extols the virtues of the perfect female - "uncommonly rare, very unique, peripatetic, poetic and chic."

It fits Wellesley's own Eleanor Early - newspaper reporter, travel writer, novelist, historian, lifestyle advisor and cookbook author.

From her start in the 1920s as reporter at the Boston Herald-Traveler, the Boston Post, the Record American and the Boston Globe, Early later moved on to writing feature stories at the Washington Post and the New York Times, which had also reviewed several of her books. She joined the staff of the Times and during World War II lived for a while in Washington D.C., authoring a book on sight-seeing in the capital. Early also had side gigs as a magazine columnist and radio commentator during World War II. Her show focused on the interests of women who had moved to Washington in great numbers to take over the gov-



In the 1920s, Early moved on as a freelance reporter for the International News Service. She even tried her hand at sports writing, once covering spring training for the Boston Braves in St. Petersburg, Florida.

It was around that time that Early wrote her first travel book, "And This is Boston!"



published in 1930. There were many more to follow. They included "And This is Cape Cod!", "Cape Cod Summer," "Lands of Delight," a guide to cruising the northern parts of South America and the Caribbean, "New Orleans Holiday," "Ports of the Sun, a Guide to the Caribbean, Bermuda, Nassau, Havanna

[sic] and Panama," "New York Holiday," and "Behold the White Mountains."

There was also "An Island Patchwork," a book of tales from Nantucket, as well as "Adirondack Tales," and her last travelogue written in 1955, "And This is Washington (and Arlington, Mt. Vernon, Alexandria and Georgetown.")



Early had adventures during a time when travel meant more than hopping on a plane. A quick peek on FamilySearch.org shows Early returning in 1927 from Cherbourg, France to New York City aboard the S.S. Lapland. She was 32 years old and a friend who accompanied her, Frances Coulter of Boston, was 28.

Early's trips were often exotic and, once in a while, the stuff of nightmares. On a boar hunt in the West Indies, (Early lived in Dominica for a time) she was perched in a tree with a rifle waiting to ambush the wild boars. All was supposed to be dark and still dark waiting for the game animals to wander by. Then a python slithered up and wound itself around Early's rib cage, so swiftly and so tightly that she didn't even have a chance to scream. Instead, she signaled frantically with her flashlight. A fellow hunter caught sight of the flashes of light in what was supposed to be perfect darkness and hurried to her rescue by whacking the snake with a machete.



Early also wrote serialized fiction, later turning the separate chapters into a book. Some fell distinctly along the lines of romance novels, like "Orchid," a story about a secretary who marries a millionaire.

There were also her aspirational books like "She Knows How..." with the intriguing tag line "...to be entertained, to entertain, to dress and to get what she wants."



There are recipes for appetizers, cocktails with appropriate glasses, as well as advice on clothes and romance.

From the chapter titled "He's Looking at You!" Early offers, "A girl's best bet is her get-up and it is smarter to be chic than pretty."

continued on next page



Another chapter headed, "Since Eve Ate Apples" tells a young woman how to prepare a dessert for a gentleman caller. "And a good dessert may lead to who knows where?" she queries archly.

In a signed edition up for sale online, Early herself writes to a friend, that a lot of the book is "corny."

She was a harsher critic of her own writing than the reviewers were.

The New York Times consistently found her books highly enjoyable. A New York Times reviewer wrote in 1935 of "Behold the White Mountains":

"Eleanor Early is the author of those two competent and entertaining guide books, "And This Is Boston!" and "And This Is Washington!" Anyone who has used either of them as a guide book or has read it at home will not willingly miss this new one, which is concerned with the mountains and the legends and the people of New Hampshire.

"It is the kind of book you can read at home with entertainment and enjoyment, but will also be a chatty, cheerful and informing friend..."

Then in 1936, this notice appeared in the Times: "Nobody writes guidebooks better than Eleanor Early – better, more interesting, more charming. Whether she is telling a tale or describing a scene, she has a knack of phrasing that makes it interesting and entertaining."

And in 1941, a Times reviewer called "Island Patchwork" Early's book about Nantucket her "latest scrapbook of jaunty gossip and guidance; and if this 'patchwork' is not the best book which has appeared for the information and delight of island-bound tourists, it is certainly one of the gayest."

Finally in 1954, Mary Poore reviewed several cookbooks in a single column. In her view, Early's New England Cookbook harbored too much quaint history and anecdotes to be considered a true treatise on cooking, she opined.

However, "the chapter on pies is excellent. A noble apple pie is one of America's glories. It must be preserved," she wrote.

No wonder. Among her numerous other accomplishments, Eleanor Early attended Le Cordon Bleu cooking school.

Recipes from "New England Cookbook" by Eleanor Early, 1954 Random House New York

Plain Pastry

This is the standard recipe for a two-crust 9 inch pie:

2 cups flour	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup shortening
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt	4 tbsps. Cold water (approximately)

1. Sift flour with salt.
2. Cut in shortening with pastry blender or two knives – or crumble it with your fingertips until the mixture is crumbly. (For shortening, I use half butter and half lard).
3. Sprinkle cold water over flour mixture.
4. Mix lightly with fork until dough holds together. Press lightly into ball. Chill in refrigerator for at least one hour.
5. Roll out on a lightly floured surface.

Eleanor Early's New England Apple Pie

6 cups sliced apples ½ tsp. cinnamon
(about 2 pounds) ¼ tsp. nutmeg
¾ cup sugar ¼ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. flour 2 tbsps. Butter

1. Arrange apple slices in pastry-lined pie pan. Sprinkle with sugar, flour, spices and salt. (Some people also sprinkle with 1 tablespoon lemon juice.) Dot with butter.
2. Cover with top crust and seal edges.
3. Bake in 450 degree oven 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees. Bake 30 to 40 minutes longer until or until apples are tender.

Wellesley Fudge Cake

This is the original Wellesley Fudge Cake, first served in the little tea room over Parker's Shoe Store in Wellesley Square and later at the Blue Dragon. In those days, undergraduates who were caught smoking in village tearooms were expelled, "disgraced forever."

4 squares Baker's Chocolate
½ cup hot water
½ cup sugar
2 cups cake flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt

½ cup butter
1 ¼ cups sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2/3 cup milk

1. Combine chocolate and water in top of double boiler. Cook over hot water until chocolate is melted. Add ½ cup sugar. Cook 2 minutes longer
2. Sift flour with baking soda and salt. Sift together 3 times.
3. Cream butter. Add 1 ¼ cups sugar. Cream until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time. Beat thoroughly after each addition. Add vanilla. Add flour alternately with milk, beating well after each addition. Add chocolate mixture. Blend well.
4. Pour batter into 2 well-greased square pans (9 by 9 inches). Bake in 350 degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes, or until done.

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Mass Bay Community College – the best can be yours for free

By Patty Roy

One of the perks of living in Wellesley is its proximity to several well-known universities; an additional educational perk is that it's also home to MassBay Community College, now offering a superlative chance for adults to earn course credits, certificates and degrees.

This opportunity is thanks to a new state program called MassReconnect, that offers free tuition for students 25 years and older who have not completed a college degree.

Gov. Maura Healey announced the program at MassBay on Aug. 24, a campus, by the way, as lovely as most private schools. The college's main building is a stately four story brick building fronted by a distinctive stonework gate and sited on 196 acres off Oakland Street in the Wellesley Hills neighborhood,.

According to Jeremy Solomon, Associate Vice President for Advancement, Marketing and Communications, MassBay is looking forward to an upcoming banner year with thousands of state residents expected to enroll in community colleges, thanks to MassReconnect that will provide \$20 million in funding to defray or eliminate college costs. Enrollment is expected to increase over 20 percent from last year, he said.

To join the program, prospective students must have a high school diploma or GED, and fill out the federal aid form, also referred to as FAFSA. In eligible cases, the state will pay the tuition and fees left over after federal aid is applied. An allowance will be given out for books and supplies.



"MassReconnect is sort of the 'last dollar scholarship'," Solomon explained, adding that everyone needs to get whatever they're going to get from the federal government and before the state program makes up the difference.

People who tried college before and dropped out without getting a degree are "not only eligible, they're encouraged," he said. Nursing students can also look forward to a free ride.

"As long as you have a GED, there's never been a better time to attend college," Solomon said.

Once enrolled in the program, students must earn at six credits (two classes) per semester towards an associate's degree or certificate program. They must also maintain satisfactory academic requirements, Solomon said.

Students must also be a permanent legal resident of the state for at least one year at the start of the enrolled term.

The funds are available to students for the fall semester, but there are several chances during the school year to hop aboard, he said.

"We have a couple of opportunities to start during the calendar year," Solomon said. Early fall classes start Sept. 5. An eight week course of studies that begins in late October and runs through mid-December is another chance to apply for in-person day, evening or online classes. A midwinter intersession beginning in early January and the spring semester offer other "hop on" opportunities.

All the steps for applying for MassReconnect are outlined on the college's website, massbay.edu.

"We have fulltime counselors to help you with the process," said Solomon.

The help will extend right through orientation and continues forward.

While students are taking classes, they are entitled to free one-on-one support services, he explained.

"We have robust career services as well," he said. "So we are dedicated to student success."

continued on next page



Many students approach community college as a first step towards a bachelor's degree, Solomon said. However, the school is not certain if those numbers will increase or whether MassReconnect students will sign up for more technical courses.

"MassBay is a great launching pad," he said. "Our motto is 'start here, go anywhere.'"

The college has a full slate of degree and certificate programs including the Automotive Tech program in Ashland and other offerings in Framingham. There are also classes in Business, Education and Human Services, Health Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, Legal Studies, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

White House recognizes cybersecurity program

The MassBay Center for Cybersecurity Education got national recognition from the White House in early August when it was highlighted by the Biden-Harris administration in a National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy announcement.

It was an early step in addressing cyber workforce needs, Solomon said. MassBay offered the only Associate's Degree in Cybersecurity in the state at the time of the announcement, he said.

"We recognized the value of this academic program early on and supported it with a very knowledgeable teaching faculty," Solomon explained. "We have three achievement levels – there is a certificate in Cybersecurity, a certificate in Advanced Cybersecurity and an Associate degree."

"So, students have a clear stepping stone where they can increase skills and knowledge and credentials as they move into the workforce," he said.

Students can earn a cybersecurity certificate in as little as a year by successfully completing 15 credit program, demonstrating that is a very practical education program, Solomon said.



Many students in Cybersecurity get internships that offer aid as part of the program or qualify for clinical work. The program is designed to prepare students for the workforce, he said, and the opportunities are endless.

"Cybersecurity today transcends every industry. There's no shortage of openings that offer job security," he said.

MassBay and the community

While educational opportunities abound at MassBay, the college also offers other value-adds for the town.

"We are so proud of our orchestra in residence which is the Wellesley Symphony Orchestra," said Solomon. "They are world class."

The students also offer a lot of volunteer work throughout the year and residents both young and old enjoy following the college's sports teams.

Another big draw is the annual STEM Science Expo an online exhibition that highlights student projects that demonstrate the multi-dimensional skills, problem-solving capabilities and talents of the school's diverse student body. Take a look and get inspiration for your own science projects.



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More than 200 local artisans, boutique owners, and craftspeople will mark the start of the holiday shopping season at the 45th annual Wellesley Marketplace fine arts fair at Wellesley High School on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Wellesley Marketplace is one of three fundraisers coordinated by the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club (WHJWC), and all proceeds generated are used to provide scholarships for deserving local students, as well as grants for organizations and programs that provide education, enrichment and essential services to our local population. Last year, WHJWC awarded \$91,700 in college scholarships to 32 Wellesley stu-

dents, and donated \$84,900 in grants to 34 Wellesley-area community groups.

Wellesley Marketplace is an annual retail favorite for those seeking unique, locally made gifts for family and friends. Local artists from New England will offer a full range of goods, including fine art, gourmet foods, hostess and teacher gifts, jewelry and clothing, home accessories, ornaments and children's toys. It is a great way to shop local while supporting your community.

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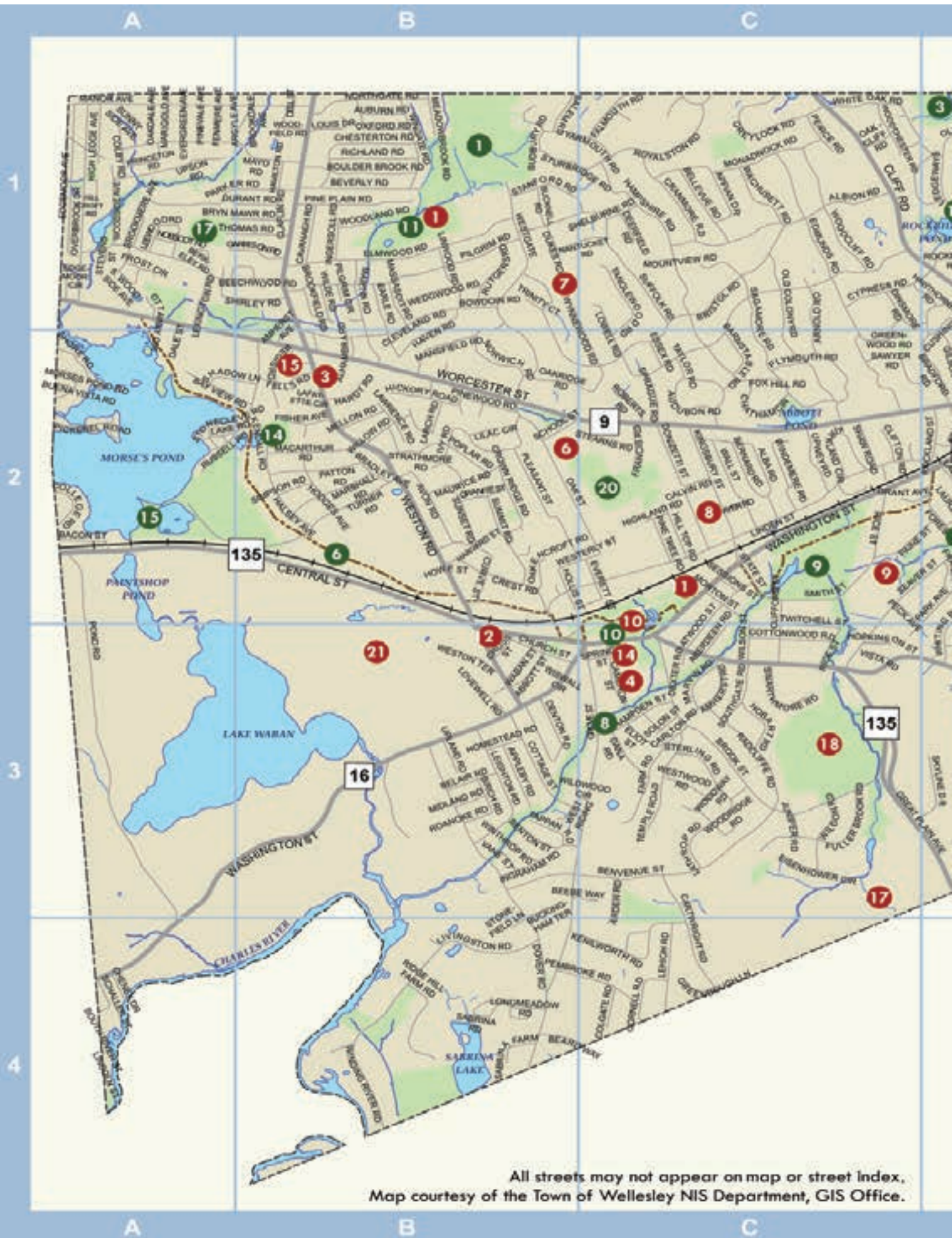
978-635-0409 See our ad on page 9

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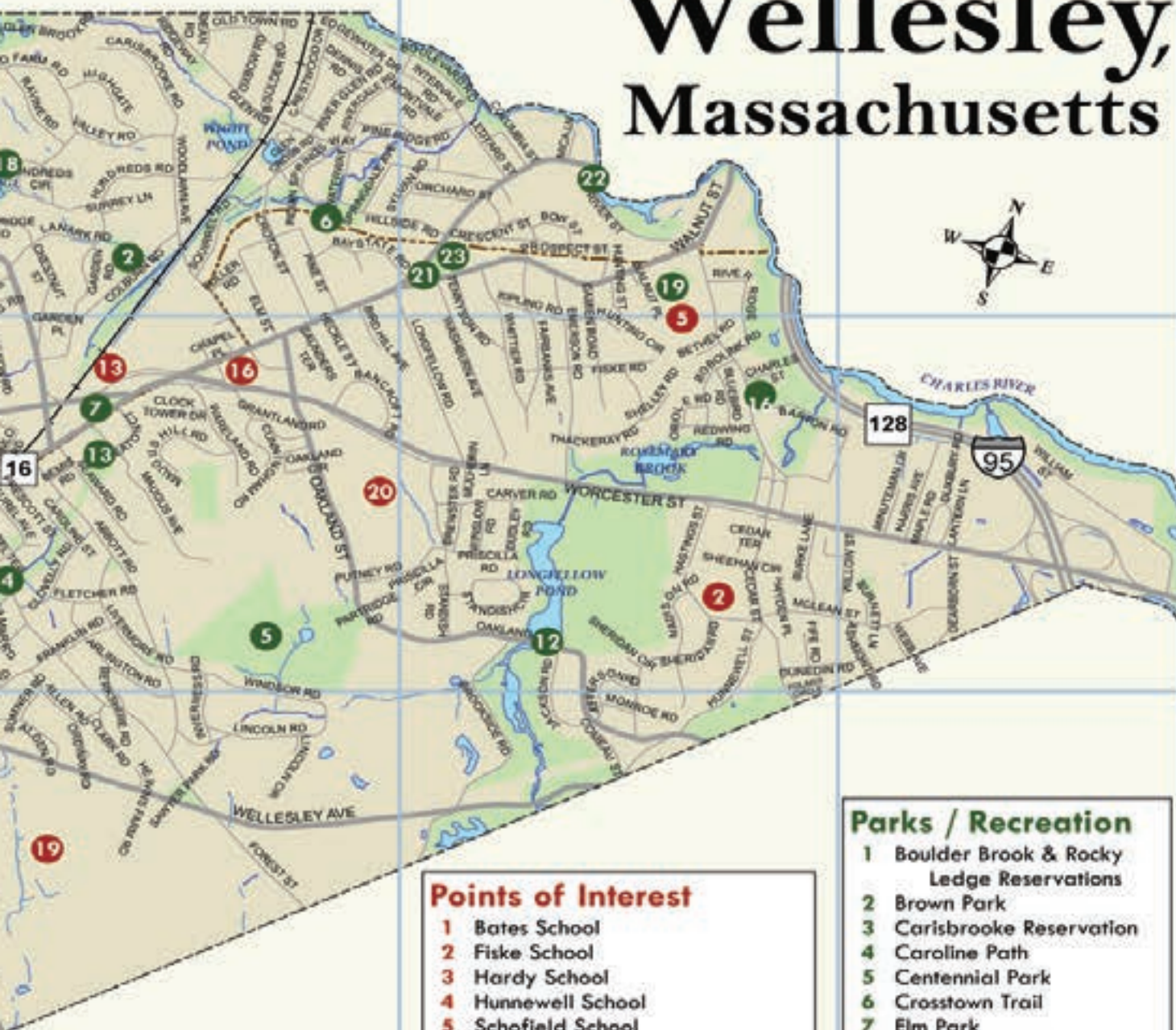
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Wellesley Massachusetts



Legend

- Interstate
- State or County Road
- Street
- Crosstown Trail
- Town Boundary
- Water
- Park

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Points of Interest

- 1 Bates School
- 2 Fiske School
- 3 Hardy School
- 4 Hunnewell School
- 5 Schofield School
- 6 Sprague School
- 7 Upham School
- 8 Wellesley Middle School
- 9 Wellesley High School
- 10 Town Hall
- 11 Police Station
- 12 Fire Station #1
- 13 Fire Station HQ
- 14 Main Library
- 15 Fells Library
- 16 Hills Library
- 17 Recycling and Disposal Facility
- 18 Woodlawn Cemetery
- 19 Babson College
- 20 MassBay Community College
- 21 Wellesley College/Davis Museum

Parks / Recreation

- 1 Boulder Brook & Rocky Ledge Reservations
- 2 Brown Park
- 3 Carisbrooke Reservation
- 4 Caroline Path
- 5 Centennial Park
- 6 Crosstown Trail
- 7 Elm Park
- 8 Fuller Brook Path
- 9 Hunnewell Field
- 10 Hunnewell Park
- 11 Kelley Field
- 12 Longfellow Pond
- 13 Maugus Park/Phillips Park
- 14 McKinnon Field & Pond
- 15 Morses Pond Beach
- 16 Ouellet Park
- 17 Perrin Park
- 18 Rockridge Pond
- 19 Schofield School Fields
- 20 Sprague Field
- 21 Warren Park
- 22 Washington Park
- 23 Wellesley Recreation Dept.

Weston

Natick



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